

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH GROMYKO:
CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE STAGE III

1. AT NAC MEETING MAY 2, YOU MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING SUMMARY
OF SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH GROMYKO AT GENEVA
APRIL 28-29.

2. CONSIDERABLE TIME WAS DEVOTED TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND
PARTICULARLY THE SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A TROOP
SEPARATION ON THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI FRONT. THE PUBLIC STATE-
MENT ISSUED AT THE END OF THE TALKS REFLECTS THE OUTCOME
OF THIS DISCUSSION. ALSO REFLECTED IN THE JOINT STATEMENT
ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS, BOTH SIDES FAVOR
THE RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE AT AN EARLY
DATE, THOUGH NO TIME HAS BEEN SET FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF
THESE NEGOTIATIONS. CONSIDERABLE TIME ALSO WAS DEVOTED TO
DISCUSSION OF US-USSR BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, IN ANTICIPATION
OF THE FORTHCOMING MOSCOW SUMMIT. VIEWS WERE EXCHANGED AS
WELL ON SALT, BUT THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSION WERE INCON-
CLUSIVE. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF MBFR OR BERLIN.

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3. WITH REGARD TO CSCE, GROMYKO PRESSED FOR A DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE LEVEL AND TIMING OF STAGE III. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT, WHILE THE US WISHED TO SEE THE TALKS CONCLUDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF COMPLEX ISSUES REMAINING WHICH MIGHT STILL TAKE SOME TIME TO SOLVE. THEREFORE, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT STAGE II COULD BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO THE US/SOVIET SUMMIT. MOREOVER, THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT THE US WISHED TO CONSULT ITS ALLIES ON THE ISSUES OF BOTH TIMING AND THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT STAGE III. GROMYKO SAID THAT THE SOVIETS DESIRED TO COMPLETE STAGE II IN MAY, AND TO HOLD STAGE III AT SUMMIT LEVEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER. THE SECRETARY REITERATED THAT HE WISHED TO TAKE FORMAL SOUNDINGS WITH THE ALLIES ON THESE POINTS. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S INQUIRY AS TO SOVIET VIEWS ON THE LIKELY DURATION OF STAGE III, GROMYKO INDICATED THAT HE ENVISAGED A SESSION OF TWO OR THREE DAYS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE FINNS HAD INDICATED THAT THEY COULD MAKE THE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS FOR STAGE III WITH TWO WEEKS' NOTICE.

4. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO MCAULIFFE'S PRESENTATION TO PERM-REPS (REFTEL), AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD SHOULD RAISE AGAIN AT NEXT PERMREP LUNCH OR OTHER SIMILAR RESTRICTED GATHERING OF PERMREPS ISSUE OF ALLIED CONSULTATIONS ON LEVEL AND TIMING OF STAGE III, MAKING CLEAR THAT WE WOULD NOT WISH THE NAC FORMALLY TO BE SEIZED WITH THESE QUESTIONS UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN ADEQUATE TIME FOR INFORMAL EXCHANGES AMONG ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES BASED UPON CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IN CAPITALS OF THE POINTS OUTLINED BY MCAULIFFE TO THE PERMREPS. OUR AIM IS TO STIMULATE THOUGHTFUL ATTENTION TO THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE LIGHT OF INCREASING SOVIET PRESSURES TO CONCLUDE CSCE THIS SUMMER AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE RECOGNIZE THAT MANY ALLIES, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE NINE, HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO DEFER A DECISION ON THE LEVEL AND TIMING OF STAGE III UNTIL THE SOVIETS PROVIDE FURTHER INDICATIONS OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY ARE PREPARED TO MEET ALLIED

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DESIDERATA WITH REGARD TO BASKET 3 AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES. IN RESPONDING TO LIKELY POSITIONS BY SOME ALLIES THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO DISCERN THE RESULTS OF CSCE, YOU SHOULD UNDERLINE THAT WE DO NOT ENVISAGE THAT THE ALLIES NEED TO TAKE AN IMMEDIATE DECISION ON THE LEVEL AND TIMING OF STAGE III. (FYI. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE FRENCH WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE DECISIONS ON THESE ISSUES UNTIL AFTER A NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED.

(END FYI.) RATHER, WE WOULD WELCOME CONTINUING INFORMAL
EXCHANGES ON THESE ISSUES, LOOKING TOWARD EVENTUAL FORMAL
NAC DISCUSSION AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.

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